(d) A series of measures have been taken by the Government to curb the problem of infiltration fo Bangladeshi nationals into India. These measures include raising of additional battalions of Border Security Force, reduction of gaps between the border outposts, intensification of patrolling both on the land and the riverine border, accelerated programme of constuction of border roads and fencing, increase in the number of outpost towers, provision of survaillance equipments etc. The matter has also been taken up with the Government of Bangladesh on various occasions. The progress of these measures is reviewed regularly at various levels.

Injury to Kashmir Girls in Shalimar Express Train

510. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that some Jammu and Kashmir school girls going back after the Republic Day celebrations were traumatised/ injured by a gang of armed men on the Shalimar Express near Meerut;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any investigation and the number of the gang-men have so far been arrested;

(c) whether it is a fact that the bed elements of the nearby villages travel as daily passengers and have made intimidation of passengers a daily routine; and

(d) if so, the reasons for this serious slackness on the part of the authorities for such recurrences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) According to information recieved from the Government of Uttar Pradesh, on 30.1.1997, a group of 25 artistes comprising 5 men and 20 women from Jammu & Kashmir was going back by Shalimar Express after participation in the Republic Day celebrations. There was an altercation over seating in the compartment between some women artistes and daily passengers who reportedly misbehaved with the artistes. 2 BSF jawans and 1 GRP jawan also sustained injuries during the incident while trying to intervene.

A case under sections 147/32/3323/ 353/354/308/IPC and 145 Railways Act has been registered in GRP Merrut. Twelve accused persons have so far been arrested. Three other accused persons have surrendered. Action against two persons named in the FIR was taken under the National Security Act and they have been served externment notices by the District Magistrate.

(c) and (d) Such incidents are not reported to be daily occurrences on running trains but, as a preventive measure, joint checking of trains by police and railway officers is done on regular basis.

Meeting of Inter-State Council

511. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of meetings of the Inter-State Council which held in January and February this year;

(b) the subjects discussed thereat;

(c) the details of subjects agreed to by Centre and State Governments;

(d) the number of subjects on which Central Government had agreed for written responses of the State Governments; and

(e) the response of the States thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (e) No meeting of the Inter-State Council was held during January and February this year. However, the first meeting of the Standing Committee of the Inter-State Council was held on 15.1.97 to review and update the